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March 3, 2015

The Honorable Joseph Pitts
420 Cannon House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Committee on Energy and Commerce
Subcommittee on Health
Hearing: "Examining the 340B Drug Pricing Program"
Thursday, March 5, 2015 at 10:00 AM
Submitted via email to: <mailto:energycommerce@mail.house.gov>

Dear Congressman Pitts and Members of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Health:

I am grateful for the opportunity to make comments regarding the 340B Drug Pricing program and to share how the current structure of the program benefits thousands of patients served by the Los Angeles LGBT Center, the world's largest LGBT organization. We provide a range of health, mental health, pharmaceutical, HIV/AIDS, and harm reduction programs and services at a rate of over 17,000 client visit each month, including primary clinical care as a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC). The ability of the Center and other safety net community health centers to provide quality primary care that meets both FQHC standards and growing patient need for comprehensive health services is in large part due to the success of the 340B program.

As a 340B covered entity, The Center has been able to realize significant savings on medications for our patients and, as intended by statute, invest those savings in improving quality of care, expanding our services and reaching patients in need of primary medical care, specialty HIV care, and medical case management. We do this in a number of ways, including covering deductibles and co-pays for patients who would otherwise be unable to afford them. Bringing medically vulnerable, underserved and the under- and uninsured populations into ongoing primary care is a mandated responsibility of FQHCs. The Los Angeles LGBT Center's participation in the 340B program has successfully increased access to life saving services for our patients and helped make possible our growth into a FQHC.

Further, the invaluable impact of the 340B Program extends beyond increased pharmaceutical access, as was always intended by the authors of the statute. It is a cornerstone for community health clinics and Ryan White 340B entities in delivering healthcare services that successfully retain patients in care, the proven means of reducing health disparities, improving health equity, reducing hospitalizations, achieving overall better health outcomes, and lowering overall

health care costs. These results fulfill the legislative intent of the 340B program and underscore the essential role it was designed to play in supporting 340B safety net providers.

The Los Angeles LGBT Center and many safety net providers across the country depend on the savings from the 340B program to keep their doors open for those who otherwise could not afford or have access to the healthcare they deserve and to which they have a right. I urge the Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Health, to keep these people foremost in mind and recommit to the 340 B Program that has so successfully helped to improve and expand our nation's healthcare.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Lorri L. Jean
Chief Executive Officer